

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2-4. These sheets, which include Figs. 2-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 34-65 were pending in the present application and by the amendment submitted herewith, claims 52-63 are canceled without acquiescence in any rejection and without prejudice to the prosecution of any encompassed subject matter in a related continuation, continuation-in-part or divisional application. In the Drawings, Figures 2-4 have been amended solely to render the structures depicted therein easier to discern, and three sheets of drawings are presented herewith for approval. No new matter is introduced by the present amendments.

DRAWINGS

The PTO alleges that in Figures 2-4 the shading is too dark such that the structures are difficult to discern. Submitted herewith are amended versions of Figures 2-4 which have been revised solely for purposes of removing areas of shading in a manner that permits ready discernment of the depicted structures. No new matter has been added by the present amendments. Reconsideration and acceptance of the Drawings are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The PTO rejects claims 52-63 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation, of claims 52-55 by Natan (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,202); of claims 52, 56-57 and 63 by Kreimer et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0073139); of claims 52, 58-60 and 63 by Ohman (U.S. Patent No. 5,443,890); and of claims 52, 58 and 61-63 by Dickopf et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0026493).

The rejections are traversed, where it is submitted that the encompassed subject matter satisfies all requirements for patentability, including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Nevertheless, without acquiescence in any rejection, without prejudice to the prosecution of the encompassed subject matter in any related application, and solely for purposes of advancing the prosecution of the present application, by the amendment submitted herewith claims 52-63 are canceled. In view of the present amendment the rejections of claims 52-63 are rendered moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

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SJR:rp

Enclosure:

3 Sheets of Replacement Drawings (Figures 2-4)
Supplemental IDS Transmittal Letter
Supplemental IDS
1 cited reference

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